

REMARKS

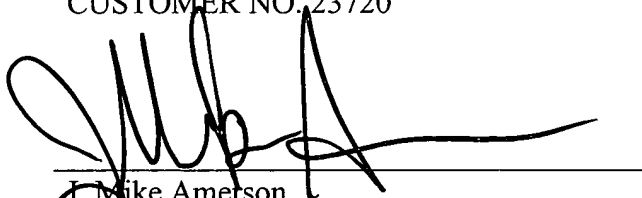
Pursuant to the present Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-9 have been canceled and new claims 23-31 have been added. Thus, claims 10-31 are pending in the present application. No new matter has been introduced by way of the present amendment.

Claims 1-9 have been canceled as they are directed to a non-elected invention that was the subject of a restriction requirement issued by the Patent Office on May 11, 2005. New method claims 23-31 have been added to further define Applicants' invention. It is believed that pending claims 10-31 are now ready for examination on the merits.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (713) 934-4055 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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